

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LIBREV 01747 081315Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 AID-05 /096 W

-----103193 082250Z /62

R 081220Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9652

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 1747

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PORT, OAU, SO, ET

SUBJECT: SOMALI MINISTER'S OAU PRESS CONFERENCE

REFS: A. LIBREVILLE 1678

B. LIBREVILLE 1697

C. LIBREVILLE 1657

SUMMARY: IN JULY 5 PRESS CONFERENCE, HEAD OF SOMALI DELEGATION ARTICULATEDLY STATED GSDR'S CASE AGAINST ETHIOPIA, CONDEMNED EPMG FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, AND DENIED EPMG CHARGES OF SABOTAGE, SUBVERSION AND COODINATED SOMALI-SUDANESE CONSPIRACY. HE DOWNPLAYED GSDR'S PROBLEMS WITH KENAY AND EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SOVIET AND OTHER MILITARY SUPPORT FOR EPMG. END SUMMARY.

1. HUSSEIN ABDUL KADIR KASSIM, SOMALIA' MINISTER FOR MINERAL AND WATER RESOURCES AND HEAD OF GSDR' OAU DELEGATION, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LIBREV 01747 081315Z

HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 5 IN RESPONSE TO NUMEROUS REQUESTS FROM JOURNALISTS. HIS REPLIES WERE UNUSUALLY ARTICULATE, AND PUT GSDR'S POLICIES IN MOST FAVORABLE LIGHT POSSIBLE.

2. MINISTER BLAMED EPMG FOR POLARIZING HORN, STATING EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA AFFECTED GSDR BOTH DIRECTLY AND

INDIRECTLY (SINCE MANY SOMALIS STILL UNDER EPMG COLONIAL DOMINATION). HE SAID WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN ETHIOPIA WAS "CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY PERPETRATED IN NAME OF SOCIALIST REVOLUTION" AND MADE CONTINUOUS REFERENCE TO ORGY OF BLOODSHED AND WANTON KILLING IN ETHIOPIA. MINISTER NOTE EPMG FOND OF RELATING HOW EMPEROR HAD SUPPRESSED DEATHS OF 250,000 DEATHS IN FAMINE, AND THEREFORE STATED NEW REGIME SHOULD NOT OBJECT TO SOMALIA'S CALLING TO ATTENTION OF WORLD COMMUNITY FACT THAT WILLFUL MURDERS BY PRESENT REGIME EXCEEDED FAMINE DEATHS.

3. MINISTER REFERRED TO ETHIO-SOMALI CONFLICT AS COLONIAL DISPUTE AND REJECTED VIEW IT COULD BE DEFINED AS BOUNDARY DISPUTE. EPMG WAS INDEPENDENT, CLASSIC COLONIAL STATE WHICH HAD DISMEMBERED TRADITIONAL SOMALI NATION IN COLLUSION WITH COLONIAL POWERS. CASE OF WESTERN SOMALIA WAS THEREFORE PERFECTLY ANALOGOUS TO ZIMBABWE OR ANIMBIA. OAU RESOLUTION OF 1964 ON MAINTENANCE OF COLONIAL BOUNDARIES WAS NOT APPLICABLE IN SOMALI CASE SINCE: (A) RESOLUTION ASSUMES COLONIAL POWER HAD DEPARTED, AND IN THIS CASE COLONIAL POWER STILL REMAINED; (B) ARMED OPPOSITION TO ETHIOPIAN COLONIALISM PRECEDED OAU RESOLUTION AND WAS CONTINUING; AND (C) CHARTER RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION APPLIED. WESTERN SOMALI CASE SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH PROBLEMS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LIBREV 01747 081315Z

OF SMALL OPPRESSED MINORITIES ELSEWHERE, HE SAID, SINCE AREA IN QUESTION TOTALLY SOMALI AND PART OF TRADITIONAL SOMALI NATION.

4. MINISTER STATED GSDR HAD CATEGORICALLY DENIED BEFORE SUMMIT EPMG'S CHARGES THAT GSDR RECRUITS AND TRAINS TERRORISTS, AND SIMILARLY STATED TO PRESS THAT GSDR NOT CARRYING OUT SABOTAGE AND SUBVERSION IN ETHIOPIA. GSDR FAVORED PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO SETTLE BOTH ETHNIC SOMALI QUESTION AND ERITREAN PROBLEM. HOWEVER, BOTH ERITREAN AND SOMALI LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAD SUPPORT OF GSDR WHICH COULD NOT SIT QUIETLY ON SIDELINES WHILE ETHNIC SOMALIS BEING MASSACRED BY EPMG.

5. MINISTER DENIED ANY COORDINATED CONSPIRACY EXISTED BETWEEN GSDR AND SUDAN, STATING THAT MENISUT EVOKING CONSPIRACY THEORY BECAUSE OF HIS OWN INTERNAL WEAKNESS.

6. ON KENYA, MINISTER INDICATED THAT CLOSE FRATERNAL TIES EXISTED BETWEEN BARRE AND PRESIDENT KENYATTA, AND HE DOWNPLAYED SIGNIFICANCE OF KENYAN CHARGES AT OAU MINISTERIAL (LIBREVILLE 1657).

7. ON SOVIETS, MINISTERS SAID THAT SOMALIS DID NOT EASILY WALK AWAY FROM FRIEND AND THAT LONGSTANDING GOOD RELATIONS HAD EXISTED BETWEEN GSDR AND SOVIET UNION. HOWEVER, GSDR VIEWED WITH CONCERN BOTH SOVIET AND MANY OTHER STATES MILITARY SUPPORT FOR EPMG. MINISTER DREW COMPARISON TO PAST US MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA, STATING THAT HIS NATURALLY HAD AFFECTED USG/GSDR RELATIONS. STEIGMAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PRESS CONFERENCES, MEETING DELEGATIONS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LIBREV01747
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770243-0990
Format: TEL
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770778/aaaacpwp.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 25dc146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LIBREVILLE 1678, 77 LIBREVILLE 1697, 77 LIBREVILLE 1657
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1923823
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMALI MINISTER'S OAU PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PORG, SO, ET, OAU, (HUSSEIN ABDUL KADIR KASSIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/25dc146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009